

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
SOUTHERN DIVISION

FILED
JAN 17 2019
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CLERK

In the matter of a subpoena issued with
regard to

19-004-04

No.: 4:19-mc-03

REDACTED SEALED
APPLICATION

The United States, through Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey C. Clapper, for the District of South Dakota, hereby applies to the Court pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2705(b) for an order prohibiting Google, Inc., located at 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, which functions as an electronic communications service provider, from notifying any person, including the subscriber, of the existence of a subpoena to Google, Inc., that requests subscriber information related to email accounts:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

In support of this application, I affirm the following:

FACTUAL AND LEGAL BACKGROUND

1. The Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations (“HSI”) is currently investigating violations of 18 U.S.C. § 2252 relating to the possession, distribution and receipt of child pornography.

2. Based on the investigation of this criminal activity, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Google, Inc. has records and other information that are relevant and material to the ongoing criminal investigation

described above.

3. Section 2703 of Title 18, United States Code, provides instruction on access to the records and other information in the possession of providers of "electronic communications services" and/or "remote computing services." Google, Inc. functions both as an electronic communications service provider -- that is, Google, Inc. provides its subscribers with access to electronic communication services, -and as a remote computing service provider providing computer facilities for the storage and processing of electronic communications as those terms are used in 18 U.S.C. § 2703.

4. Here, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2703(c)(2), the government seeks to obtain the following basic subscriber information:

- (a) name;
- (b) address;
- (c) local and long distance telephone connection records, or records of session times and durations;
- (d) length of service (including start date) and types of service utilized;
- (e) telephone or instrument number or other subscriber number or identity, including any temporarily assigned network address; and
- (f) means and source of payment for such service (including any credit card or bank account number).

5. According to 18 U.S.C. § 2703(c)(3), a governmental agency receiving records or information under 18 U.S.C. § 2703(c)(2) is not required to provide notice to a subscriber or customer.

6. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2705(b), the Court may issue an order commanding a provider of electronic communications services or remote computing services that has been served with a subpoena or summons in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 2703, to not notify the subscriber, customer or any other person of the existence of the subpoena, summons or court order.

7. Also pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2705(b), the Court shall enter such an order if it determines that there is reason to believe that notification of the existence of the subpoena will result in (1) endangering the life or physical safety of an individual; (2) flight from prosecution; (3) destruction of or tampering with evidence; (4) intimidation of potential witnesses; or (5) otherwise seriously jeopardizing an investigation or unduly delaying a trial.

8. Accordingly, this application sets forth the facts showing that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the records and information sought are relevant and material to the ongoing criminal investigation described above and that an order prohibiting the disclosure of the subpoena or summons and request for information is warranted under the circumstances.

THE RELEVANT FACTS

9. Homeland Security Investigations is conducting an investigation of suspects who are identified as using the email accounts [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in conjunction with identified Facebook accounts to distribute and receive child pornography. The email accounts were identified by Facebook in a CyberTipline

report provided to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and forwarded to law enforcement officials.

10. For the purposes of the ongoing investigation, the Government seeks to obtain basic subscriber information of the requested account associated with the suspect.

11. It is requested that this Application and Order be sealed by the Court for 90 days, or as the Court directs otherwise. Given the confidential nature of this investigation, disclosure would severely jeopardize the investigation in that it might alert the target of the investigation to the existence of an investigation and likely lead to the destruction and concealment of evidence, and/or flight.

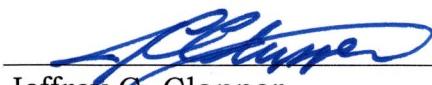
12. It is further requested that pursuant to the preclusion of notice provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 2705(b), that Google, Inc. be ordered not to notify any person (including the subscribers or customers to which the materials relate) of the existence of this order or a Grand Jury subpoena until further order of the Court. The Government submits that such an order is justified because notification of the existence of this order could seriously jeopardize the ongoing investigation. Such a disclosure could give the subscribers an opportunity to destroy evidence, notify confederates, or cause people to flee or continue to flee from prosecution.

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully requested that the Court grant the attached Order (1) directing that the Application and Order be sealed; and (2) directing Google, Inc. not to disclose the existence or content of the Order, the

application, or the Grand Jury subpoena, except to the extent necessary to comply with the Grand Jury subpoena.

Dated this 16th day of January, 2019.

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